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DRAFT REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 4-29 MAY 1992

Rapporteur: Mr. Luis ESPADA-PLATET (United States)

Addendum

CHAPTER V. COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

E. Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC)

Argentina

1. The Assistant Administrator and Director, RBLAC, introduced the fifth country programme for Argentina, which has a net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $11 million and cost-sharing of $85 million, to be oriented towards three main areas: (a) support of economic growth; (b) strengthening of the management capacity of the State; and (c) formulation and implementation of policies and programmes to improve social conditions.

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2. Two delegations expressed their support for the country programme. Note was taken of the considerable improvements that had been made over the last few years in the overall political and economic situation of the country, and of the promising prospects, particularly in the context of the MERCOSUR free trade arrangements. The use of UNDP resources as seed money to generate large amounts of cost-sharing, and technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) were commended. The country programme was considered to be well focused, with an emphasis on capacity-building and the promotion of market-based systems. It was recommended that criteria for success should be established to facilitate subsequent evaluation, and that donor coordination should be improved.

3. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Argentina.

Bolivia

4. The Resident Representative introduced the fifth country programme for Bolivia, which has an IPF of $22 million, and estimated cost-sharing of $35 million. The programme will be concentrated in the areas of: (a) economic stability and structural reform; (b) economic recovery; and (c) human development.

5. The particular characteristics of the programme approach were described. Four major programme themes have been chosen, for which specific donors have been designated as the lead agencies, namely, for public investment, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); for structural reform, the World Bank; for the adjustment programme and balance-of-payments support, the International Monetary Fund (IMF); and for technical cooperation, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

6. The Government will concentrate the technical cooperation programme in five areas, each of which constitutes a national programme, for which UNDP would carry out certain strategic support functions. The total estimated cost of technical cooperation is $700 million.

7. In addition to the government representative, five delegations spoke in support of the country programme, emphasizing its unique catalytic role, and the high level of confidence in UNDP's capacity to assist in the coordination of all technical cooperation. One delegation stressed that particular attention should be placed on strengthening institutional capacity so that the functions listed could be progressively taken over by the Government.

8. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Bolivia.

Costa Rica

9. The Assistant Administrator introduced the fifth country programme for Costa Rica, which has an IPF of $4.8 million and estimated cost-sharing of $10.2 million. These will be oriented towards the areas of: (a) modernization and transformation of the productive apparatus; (b) poverty alleviation; and (c) environment and sustainable development.

10. Four delegations spoke in support of the country programme. They noted the considerable emphasis placed on the introduction of computer technology in education and business management, although one delegation expressed concern that IPF funds were being used for the purchase of computer equipment, which it considered more as budgetary support than technical cooperation. Another delegation, while commending the focus on the environment, warned that the lessons of the Tropical Forest Action Programme (TFAP) and of World Bank experience should be applied. Two delegations noted that their bilateral cooperation had not been reflected in paragraph 11 on external cooperation, and that UNDP's coordination role needed to be strengthened. In reply, the Administration took note of the comments made, and said they would be followed up as appropriate.

11. The Standing Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Costa Rica.